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## Heavy crop damage, many roads flooded in surprise storms

Jerusalem Post Staff and Agencies

Severe storms over the holiday caused millions of shekels worth of damage to agriculture, endangered lives at sea, cut roads by the Dead Sea, and caused serious flooding in Jerusalem.

In Galilee and on the Golan, the largely unripe cotton crop was severely hit, with 25,000 dunams on the Golan alone affected. Citrus crops were also badly damaged and plastic and glass greenhouses were smashed with particular damage to the export flower crop. A number of workers in the greenhouses was injured by broken glass.

The poultry branch suffered in the rains. The coastguard was called out to assist boats which got into difficulties near Acre, and rescued three wind-surfers near Bat Galim in Haifa.

In Jerusalem, a record 77 millimeters of rain fell, causing flooding in many neighborhoods, notably Tzfat, and the fire brigade was called out to pump water from numerous cellars. Flooded roads caused a number of traffic jams.

The Larom Hotel parking lot and ballroom were flooded, and worshippers were driven from synagogues in several neighborhoods by the floods.

Meteorologists noted that the average Jerusalem rainfall for October is 8mm.

Heavy rains in the Hebron hills caused flooding in the wadis around the shores of the Dead Sea, cutting off the Ein Gedi-Sdom road, which was still impassable as of last night. Dozens of tourists were stranded on both sides of the wadi, and chunks of the road were carried away.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

### Two die in plane crash

Jerusalem Post Reporter

KIRYAT SHMONA: Two men flying in an ultra-light recreational airplane were killed when they crashed yesterday in the southern Golan Heights.

Avraham Halfon, 32, of Moshav Eliad, and Eitan Ramler, the pilot who was visiting the moshav, were killed when their Hurricane aircraft crashed after it took off from the Kiryat Shmona airstrip near the Afiq crossroads.

A thunderstorm, which started suddenly just after take-off, is believed responsible for the crash.

Police and Magen David Adom teams raced to the site of the crash, but the two men were dead at the scene. The Civil Aviation Authority is investigating.



Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon carries a Tora scroll last night during Simhat Torah hakafot in Hebron. The procession was attended by some 7,000 people. Story page 2.

## Weinberger optimistic after Middle East visit

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger returned home yesterday from visits to Egypt, Israel and Jordan, saying that prospects now appear brighter for reducing tensions in the Middle East.

He told reporters aboard his plane en route to Washington from Amman, where he met with King Hussein for more than two hours Wednesday night, that recent developments indicate "it is a ripe time for movement towards a broader Mideast peace."

Weinberger cited as positive signs the Israeli government's desire to withdraw troops from Lebanon, Jordan's "bold and courageous" diplomatic recognition of Egypt, and improving U.S. relations with Iraq.

Of his meeting with Hussein, Weinberger said: "I think it advanced the cause and increased understanding of the various positions."

"Asked what he meant by 'advanced the cause,'" Weinberger said: "If you get various people talking about things that have not been discussed... that's progress."

He said Prime Minister Peres told him Israel is anxious to end its occupation of Southern Lebanon if security from terrorist attacks can be guaranteed for Israel's northern border.

## Israel sets conditions for accord on Lebanon

By DAVID LANDAU

Post Diplomatic Correspondent  
Israel has set out its conditions for a "political understanding with Syria" and "a military agreement with Lebanon" over South Lebanon security. But projected military talks between the IDF and the Lebanese Army have already run aground over the question of the formal framework.

High Israeli officials reiterated last night that they would not agree to the talks being held in the framework of the Israel-Lebanon Mixed Armistice Commission (Imac) which Israel has considered dead and buried since 1967.

But reports from Lebanon said the Beirut government was indeed asserting that the talks would be a revival of the Imac.

Israel has already agreed to Lebanon's demand that the talks involve only military officers — a concession to the Lebanese and Syrians that the talks have no political import. Israel has also agreed that the talks be held under UN chairmanship at the Unifil headquarters at Nakoura.

An official said last night that Israel is "awaiting an invitation," and would respond at once — if there is no attempt to label the talks an Imac session.

Top UN political officer Jean-Claude Aimee has been sent from New York in a behind-the-scenes effort to overcome the obstacles and get the talks started. He is working with the Unifil commander Gen.

William Callaghan.

Some observers have argued that if the invitation comes from Callaghan, and Callaghan is in the chair, this could suffice for Israel — since Unifil did not exist when the Imac was created in 1949, under the Armistice Agreement of that year.

During the mid-1970s, when Shimon Peres was defence minister and Yitzhak Rabin premier, a series of meetings was held between the IDF and the Lebanese Army, with the Lebanese referring to them as Imac sessions and the Israelis insisting they were not Imac meetings.

Unifil spokesman Timor Goksel said yesterday that UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar "has asked Callaghan to explore the possibility of initiating military-level talks between Lebanon and Israel under UN auspices."

Israel meanwhile has marshalled its conditions for withdrawal from Lebanon in an official statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office on Wednesday.

Citing Premier Peres at a meeting with visiting U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, the statement said Peres had laid down four conditions: "A. A Syrian commitment not to expand the deployment of its forces into areas to be evacuated by the IDF; B. A Syrian commitment to prevent terrorist infiltrations from the areas held by the Syrian Army; C. The continued existence of the South Lebanon Army under Gen. Antoine Lahad, and its deployment in the southern area contiguous with

the Israeli border; D. The deployment of Unifil units in a zone north of the SLA strip, from the Mediterranean in the west to the Syrian lines in the east."

The statement said that Israel has "no intention of compromising over these security arrangements. Israel believes they can be implemented within a reasonable time-frame."

Political observers saw the statement as a move by Peres to end speculation which had surfaced in the media over apparent differences between himself and Rabin over Lebanon. This speculation followed Peres's public references in the U.S. to the possibility of a partial IDF pullback from the western sector of South Lebanon if the Syrians refuse to reach a comprehensive understanding on security arrangements throughout South Lebanon.

Peres and Rabin are understood to have worked on Wednesday's statement together. Both Rabin and Vice Premier Shamir attended Peres's meeting with Weinberger.

The U.S. Secretary told newsmen later he had found Israel willing to leave Lebanon "when proper security arrangements for her border have been reached." Israeli officials, quoted by the Associated Press, said later that Weinberger had raised no objection to the Israeli conditions.

The Israeli statement of conditions will presumably be incorporated in the premier's address to the Knesset at the opening of the winter term on Monday. On October 28 the cabinet is scheduled to hold a detailed debate on Lebanon policy.

## New economic scheme expected in few days

By AVITZMAN

Post Economic Reporter  
Major economic decisions will be reached shortly, senior government sources said yesterday. They said it is possible that government leaders will decide on the measures to be taken by late Sunday.

According to the sources, the special task force of economic experts headed by Treasury Director General Emmanuel Sharon will report to Prime Minister Peres, Finance Minister Modai and Economic Minister Ya'acobi at the beginning of next week. The unit will submit the basic alternatives and then it will be up to the government to choose among them.

The team has been working around the clock the past few days to produce a comprehensive scheme. Most of the participants are Treasury and Bank of Israel officials.

The sources said that most of the ministers concerned with economic policies are convinced that it is no longer possible to live with a 30 per cent rate of inflation, that there is no time for five-government deliberations, and that it must act immediately to stop inflation.

This is contradictory to the advice of several of the experts in the Sharon committee, who have tried to convince the government to cut the budget by \$1.5 billion prior to any

(Continued on Back Page)

### Joint group 'to act as economic spur'

Post Economic Reporter

Close scrutiny of Israel's economic policy by the U.S. administration through the recently created Joint Economic Development Group will spur the adoption of an economic scheme by the government, observers in Jerusalem said yesterday.

According to other sources in the capital, the group will supervise and monitor economic policy and performance in much the same way that

committees set up by the International Monetary Fund monitor "troubled countries" received emergency aid from the IMF or from other bodies.

The IMF committees usually target limits for budget deficits and for private and public consumption and carefully watch their observance. Usually banks and governments decide on further aid to such countries on the basis of these committees' reports.

### Sterling at all-time low against dollar

LONDON (Reuters). — Sterling fell to an all-time low against the dollar yesterday, raising concern here that British banks might have to raise interest rates.

The pound slumped to \$1.1880 on European markets from Wednesday night's close of \$1.2005, even though the dollar was showing only a slightly firmer trend elsewhere.

Sterling also fell against other currencies, and its overall index against a basket of currencies, closely watched by the British authorities as a guide to the pound's true performance, dropped one point to equal its record low of 174.2.

The week so far has been a terrible one for sterling, which has lost more than four cents against the dollar since Friday. Pressure has built since talks aimed at ending the seven-month-old British coal miners' strike broke down and the dispute spread to include pit supervisors.

To add to the country's economic woes, the state-owned British National Oil Corporation followed Norway's lead by cutting the price of its North Sea oil.

The spectre of interest-rate rises loomed just a week after some commentators thought the time was right for a small cut in lending rates.

## Iran launches new offensive, Iraq says it repulsed attack

NICOSIA (Reuters). — Iran said yesterday it had launched a new offensive in the central sector of the Persian Gulf war front, killing hundreds of Iraqi troops, Iraq confirmed the attack, but said it had been repulsed with heavy Iranian losses.

Teheran radio said that hundreds of Iraqi troops had been killed and wounded and over 100 captured in the attack which began shortly before midnight on Friday.

The renewed fighting ended a relative lull which has held since February this year, when Iran seized the oil-rich Majnoon islands on the Iraqi side of the southern front.

But diplomats in Teheran said Iran's declared objectives, the nature of the terrain and the media coverage of the attack indicated it

would not develop into a full-scale offensive.

The official news agency Irna said the Iranians were still advancing after recapturing dozens of square kms. of territory occupied since the start of the four-year-old war.

The Iranians had crossed a river and taken part of the Halaleh plain nearby, the Iranian reports added.

The Iranian reports did not give the exact location of the fighting but Iraqi accounts placed it along a 20 kilometre front in the Seif Saad area, 120 km. east of Baghdad.

In Baghdad a high command communiqué said the Iraqis had "torn the Iranians to pieces" and forced them to retreat with heavy losses. Iran has given no casualty figures of its own.

Iran said the aim was to protect villages in the Melmak area from sporadic Iraqi attacks and artillery fire.

The Iraqi Air Force for weeks has been mounting pre-emptive strikes on Iranian troop concentrations, according to Baghdad war communiqués.

From the way Iraq publicized yesterday's Iranian offensive — state television even started broadcasting seven hours early — it was clear that the Iraqi authorities were trying to show they were in full control of the central sector.

The commander of the Second Army had warned that his troops were ready to turn back any attack on the central sector, and diplomats said Iraq had readied troops in the northern and southern fronts to reinforce the central zone if necessary.



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WORLD NEWS

Chernenko calls on U.S. to yield on arms issues

WASHINGTON (AP). - Declaring that the Soviet Union stands for "good relations" with Washington, Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko has asked the U.S. to try to reach agreement on at least one major arms-control issue. The Washington Post reported Wednesday.

In an interview with the Post in Moscow, Chernenko singled out what he considers four major arms-control issues: Moscow's proposal to prevent the militarization of outer space, a mutual freeze on nuclear weapons, ratification by the U.S. of past treaties, and a U.S. pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

The 73-year-old Chernenko, who had reportedly been hospitalized with unspecified heart trouble last summer, appeared fit and in good health, the Post correspondent said.

Chernenko made clear that a resolution of "at least some" of the arms-control issues would open the way for resuming talks on strategic and medium-range nuclear arms.

He referred to the recent meeting between President Reagan and Foreign Minister Gromyko in Washington, saying that "unfortunately" there has been no shift in U.S. policies.

Chernenko's tone was conciliatory, according to observers, and his interview was linked to the scheduled debate on foreign policy between Reagan and his Democratic challenger, Walter Mondale next Sunday, the Post said.

He emphasized that Moscow's search for a resumption of arms-control efforts with the U.S. was not motivated by tactical considerations. "We are doing this not because we like it but because we have experience in reality" what a world war means, even without nuclear weapons, the Post quoted him as saying.

The U.S. administration on Wednesday responded to the interview by saying it wants improved relations with Moscow but has no obligation "to pay a price so that the Soviet Union will come back to the nuclear negotiating table."

Presidential Spokesman Larry Speakes gave no indication that the U.S. is prepared to shift its position on any arms-control issue Chernenko cited.

Secretary of State George Shultz said that Reagan's administration will "study carefully" new statements by the Soviet leader.

Chile and Argentina settle their Beagle Channel dispute

VATICAN CITY (Reuters). - Argentina and Chile yesterday signed a protocol saying they had agreed on a treaty to resolve their territorial dispute over the Beagle Channel, the Vatican said. The Vatican has been mediating the century-old dispute for over five years.

A Vatican spokesman said copies of the treaty itself, which includes maps, would be initiated in Argentina and Chile and made public today.

The protocol has not been published, but diplomats in Buenos Aires have said the agreement gives Chile control of three disputed islands at the mouth of the Beagle Channel. It gives control of waters on the Atlantic side of the channel to Argentina and on the Pacific side to Chile, they said.

The two countries accepted Pope John Paul's mediation offer after they almost went to war over the territory in late 1978.

Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo yesterday said the border protocol is a triumph for reason, diplomacy and peace.

Caputo said in a radio address that both countries made concessions to achieve a "balanced agreement that satisfies the interests of both sides."

He said the text of the accord would be made public today, permitting Argentines to debate its contents before a non-binding national referendum on the issue tentatively scheduled for late next month.

Diplomatic sources said the government called the referendum to neutralize the expected backlash from right-wing nationalists, many of whom oppose the agreement with Chile.

Belgium worried by wave of bombings

GHENT (AP). - Belgium Premier Wilfried Martens said the government is "very much worried" about an "unprecedented" wave of bombings in the last of which destroyed his party headquarters here Wednesday.

A bomb went off at the Ghent branch of the Christian Democratic Party early Wednesday, party officials said. It heavily damaged the building but caused no injuries, they said.

The bombing, the fifth in Brussels over the past two weeks, was claimed by an unknown extreme-left organization called Fighting Communist Cells. It also claimed responsibility for the other four.

Early Monday the offices of a Liberal (conservative) Party foundation in Brussels were bombed and heavily damaged. The Liberals are Martens's partners in the coalition government.

On October 2, 3 and 8, the same group bombed the Brussels branches of the U.S. company Litton, the German company M.A.N., Volkswagen and the U.S. company Honeywell, claiming they supply arms to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Micro-chips for steering ships

TOKYO (Reuters). - The traditional picture of the ship's helmsman spinning the wheel to steer his vessel may soon be a fading memory: all he will need is his voice.

A system now being tested will enable the helmsman to say simply, "port 10" or "starboard 30." A female voice will repeat the order and transmit it to the steering gear.

At the heart of the system is a voice-recognition microchip which its developer, the Japanese ship-building firm Hitachi Zosen, says is the first of its kind.

A Hitachi Zosen spokesman said the system is being tested on a 187,000-ton bulk carrier. The device may lead to cuts in crews, he added.

UNRWA. - Kuwait is to donate \$100 million to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, it was announced yesterday.



Spain yesterday formally complained to Moscow over a collision between a Soviet nuclear submarine and a Soviet freighter in the Straits of Gibraltar. The Victor 1-class submarine is pictured undergoing repair at Hammamet, Tunisia, after the collision a month ago. Spain wants to know why the submarine passed through the Straits below the surface contrary to the Geneva Convention of 1958. (UPI telephoto).

Nobel Prizes for Physics, Economics and Chemistry

STOCKHOLM. - Sir Richard Stone, 71, of Britain, was named winner of the 1984 Nobel Prize for Economics yesterday for the development of systems to keep track of countries' national finances.

On Wednesday, an Italian-Dutch team of nuclear physicists who found particles scientists had sought for 50 years and an American researcher whose work led to safer medication won the 1984 Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry.

Stone, of Cambridge University, developed standard forms of accounts after World War II for use internationally which the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said were of great benefit to organizations such as the UN and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Italian physicist Carlo Rubbia, 50, a professor at Harvard University, shared the physics prize with Simon van der Meer, 59, of the Netherlands. The two were honored for discovering the W and Z boson particles that act as communicators to carry the basic force called weak interchange, much as photons carry light.

The existence of W and Z particles had been predicted, but they were not found until Rubbia and Van der Meer discovered them last year in a particle accelerator they built for the European nuclear research organization Cern, in Geneva.

Bruce Merrifield, 63, a biochemist at New York's Rockefeller University, was awarded the chemistry prize for finding a way to synthesize peptides - complex substances in proteins - in quantities and purity undreamed of by researchers and in a fraction of the time required by old methods.

The discovery has revolutionized the manufacture of drugs such as high blood pressure medicine, insulin and other hormone medications, and has been used in gene technology. (AP, Reuters)

S. African activists welcome Tutu home

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). - Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu returned to South Africa yesterday to a rapturous welcome from a crowd of singing and dancing black supporters. He was in the U.S. when the award was announced.

Tutu, a leading campaigner against South Africa's race segregation policies, told his followers in Johannesburg's St. Marks Anglican church that he was "glad to be home."

He was greeted by scores of excited supporters who held clenched fists in the air and waved placards including one which read "Apartheid - Goodbye to You."

Church leaders who met him included Allan Boesak, a founder of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front, who said: "This is going to be a tremendous boost for us all at a time when the South African government was beginning to think it could get away with bogus reforms."

Police did not intervene.

Eight shot in Mafia-type killing in Sicily

PALERMO, Sicily (Reuters). - Eight people were shot dead Wednesday night in what police said they suspected was a settling of scores between rival Mafia gangs.

Police found the bodies in a stable after an anonymous telephone call yesterday morning. Six of the victims were men with previous convictions for various offences.

Police rounded up dozens of people for questioning and set up road blocks around the city after discovering the bodies in an area bordering the industrial zone.

Police in Sicily and mainland Italy began a major anti-Mafia operation last month, detaining some 70 people on evidence from former Mafia chief Tommaso Buscetta.

Opposition leader released in Pakistan

KARACHI (Reuters). - Pakistani opposition politician Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has been freed by military authorities after 14 months of detention, family sources said yesterday.

Jatoi, Sind Province president of the banned Pakistan People's Party, was jailed in August last year at the start of an anti-government campaign launched by the main opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.

The move follows the release of three other prominent opposition politicians early this month.

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Stage set for clashes with Salvador guerrillas

SAN SALVADOR (Reuters). - The Salvadoran Army began an anti-guerrilla sweep yesterday and left-wing rebels repeated a call for a nationwide transport stoppage, setting the stage for the first major clashes since peace talks Monday.

The strike call by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) went out before the peace talks, saying "The FMLN orders the paralysis of transport...on all the principal and secondary roads of the country." The call was repeated Wednesday night on the guerrilla radio. Venceremos, monitored here.

Monday's talks brought guerrillas and government together for the first time in five years of civil war but both sides have since said their positions have not changed.

U.S. military aid to the government is the principle obstacle to peace, the FMLN said in a statement on the talks broadcast by Venceremos. Washington has stationed 55 military advisers in this tiny country and pumps in more than \$1 million a day.

"Intensify the popular struggle. All the people to defeat the imperialist intervention. Revolution or death. We shall win," the guerrilla statement said.

It called for wide-ranging political and social reforms and said: "The peace we seek is through the resolution of all these popular aspirations."

Previous indirect talks collapsed because of government demands for the guerrillas to lay down their arms and join in elections, and guerrilla requests for a role in a transitional government leading to wide-ranging reforms and eventual elections.

(President Jose Napoleon) Duarte tried to reduce the solution to the conflict to our participation in elections but in the meeting we managed to discuss all the political, social and economic factors which set off the war and all the aspects necessary to obtain peace," the guerrilla radio said.

Ankara, Baghdad to cooperate against Kurdish separatists

ANKARA (Reuters). - Prime Minister Turgut Ozal yesterday said Turkey and Iraq are ready to cooperate in a fight against Kurdish guerrillas, but a foreign ministry official denied Turkish troops had already crossed into Iraq.

Ozal was addressing parliament after a spate of attacks by guerrillas on soldiers in the last two months, as Turkish newspapers reported that troops had advanced up to 15 kilometres into Iraq over a 120km front.

He said that during Foreign Minister Vahit Hakefoglari's visit to Baghdad last weekend, "the sides agreed on fighting in coordination when it is deemed necessary."

Ozal said that because of the war between Iran and Iraq there had been "a vacuum of authority" in the region of those countries' borders with Turkey.

"Some of the incidents were caused because these two countries wish to use these separatist powers against each other," he said.

Turkey has blamed attacks on its forces on the Kurdish Workers' Party - said to share bases in Iraq with the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, which has helped Iran in the Gulf War.

Referring to the rebels only as "separatist terrorists," Ozal said they had links with Armenian and Communist groups and operated with foreign support which included training facilities in Lebanon and Syria.



Jehan Sadat unveils foundation for peace

DALLAS (AP). - Jehan Sadat, the widow of slain Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, has announced the establishment of the Sadat Peace Foundation to continue efforts for Middle East peace initiated by her husband.

Sadat made the announcement Wednesday in a press conference at Southern Methodist University, which plans to sponsor research and exchange programmes under the foundation.

It will be headquartered in New York.

Filipino rebels kill 9 in ambush of police

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP). - About 60 Communist rebels ambushed a police patrol yesterday and killed nine of them in a five-hour gun battle, a military report said on Wednesday.

The ambush occurred on Monday on the outskirts of Dapitan city, 724km. south of Manila on the island of Mindanao.

One surviving policeman was wounded and hospitalized.

Italy wants U.S., Soviets at Med Conference

VENICE (AP). - Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti on Tuesday proposed a major Mediterranean Sea security and cooperation conference that also would include the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Andreotti made the proposal as he opened an 11-day seminar on Mediterranean issues that includes representatives of the 35 nations that signed the 1975 Helsinki Accords as well as eight Mediterranean countries including Israel and Egypt.

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New round of Soviet-China talks begin

PEKING (Reuters). - Chinese and Soviet negotiators opened a new round of talks yesterday, aimed at thawing frosty relations between the Communist giants, but Peking leaders said they expected no breakthroughs.

The Soviet Communist party newspaper Pravda said at the beginning of the month Moscow wants better relations with Peking but China's unacceptable conditions thwart normalization.

The Soviet team, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Leonid Ilyichov, arrived from Moscow two days ago to resume the dialogue opened in October, 1982.

Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said last week that fundamental problems still block the path to rapprochement between the former Communist allies. But he added this could not prevent them from increasing their contacts, particularly in the economic and cultural fields.

15 perish in New Jersey hotel arson

PATERSON, New Jersey (Reuters). - A fire killed 15 persons in a Paterson hotel yesterday. A town resident was later arrested and charged with arson and murder.

The fire, at the residential hotel, Alexander Hamilton, also injured 55 people and left dozens homeless. The local police chief said it was the worst fire in the history of Paterson, which is 16 kilometres west of New York City.

The fire broke out in the nine-storey hotel soon after midnight, according to a hotel receptionist.

"We smelled smoke, then tried to put out the fire with an extinguisher. But it had too much of a head start," he said. "It was horrible. People were screaming, crying out for help."

Charged with arson in the case is a 44-year-old television repairman.

OLDEST - Lord (Manny) Shinnell, Britain's oldest politician, celebrated his 100th birthday yesterday with a reception at the House of Commons.

He said that the U.S. and the Soviet Union should be included because of their large naval presence in the Mediterranean.

CORRECTION  
In the "high-tech strategist" article in today's magazine, it is erroneously stated that Fibronics is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. The company's shares are traded on the Over-the-Counter market.

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PRIME MINISTER Shimon Peres was right when he scolded William Safire of *The New York Times* for having written that, in "making a pilgrimage to Washington only three weeks after having taken office" instead of staying in Jerusalem where his job was, Peres "had come to the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong plan."

Given the imminence of Israel's crisis and its nature, the only possible "plan" was to obtain more foreign aid; the only place where it could be obtained was Washington, and the only time was now. Being the only place, the only time and the only plan, they were by definition right. Without the "pilgrimage" there was no way even to begin tackling the job that can indeed be done only in Jerusalem. That job is: to stop inflation, immediately. To stop it, not to slow it. Now, within weeks, if not days, for we are five minutes away from chaos.

We have known difficult times before; as we all know, our existence has always been precarious. But the present crisis is unprecedented not only in gravity and imminence, but also in nature. Most of it is home-made and has causes that lie in the very warp and woof of our social fabric.

But a considerable, even pivotal, cause of the crisis must, as shall be argued later, be laid at Washington's door, so there are sound and just reasons for asking that the U.S. shoulder a bigger part of the burden. That, however, is for the longer run. The responsibility for the immediate threat and its ominous dimensions lies squarely in Jerusalem.

What is the threat that drove Peres so urgently to Washington, and why has stopping inflation here and now become the overriding concern, without which the comprehensive economic programme everybody has been clamouring for cannot be devised? How has the nature of Israel's chronic economic problem changed?

The change is not merely that balance of payments difficulties have become a balance of payments crisis, with the economy only a step short of no longer being able to pay for its imports. Nor is it only that inflation

has, within one year, shot up from 130 per cent annually to 200 per cent and then rapidly to 400 and now 1,000 per cent and more. Quantity has become quality. The problems of inflation and of the payments balance have coalesced and become one. The one cannot be solved without the other.

LET US TAKE a brief look back. For more than a decade, inflation has been the mechanism to which our governments have resorted to alleviate recurrent balance payments difficulties temporarily. Each time that, for one reason or other, our foreign payments position deteriorated, government policy embarked upon an attempt to obtain at least a temporary real devaluation. Each time this boiled down mainly to an effort to erode real wages and each time, after a breathing spell had been achieved with regard to the balance of payments and the wage erosion was recouped, a new and higher level of inflation was the compromise produced.

As long as each higher level of inflation was kept stable, it was universally accepted. Not surprisingly, with hindsight: powerful lobbies made up of those who stood to gain from inflation always paid lip service to the need to contain inflation, but they always made sure, through direct pressure and indirectly through the political process, that any effort to throttle inflation should at least be only gradual — very gradual. And theoretical exponents of gradualism, whether in academia or in the "pragmatic" economic establishment, were not lacking.

The wage earners who, as a class, had most to lose from inflation, were only bought off by receiving, at least the most affluent and the poorest strata among them, their share in the gains made by sacrificing the future to the present.

Until the fall of 1983, that mechanism remained under relative control. It was therefore accepted as a compromise by which socially and politically more difficult solutions for the country's basic problems — of economic structure and of foreign defence policy — could be stayed off. The relative stability of inflation in between the shocks that drove it up to a higher plateau made it seem

## FIVE MINUTES TO CHAOS

This is the first of three articles by The Jerusalem Post's Economic Editor, Meir Merhav, who takes a new look at Israel's current economic problems.

tolerable. A major part of it came to be seen as a mere "bubble" inflated by the inertia of expectations.

AS IS BY NOW well known, that led to the conclusion drawn by former finance minister Yoram Aridor: that the bubble could be punctured, that inflation, just as it had previously been pushed up to a stable level, could be pushed down by government policy to a lower level that might make it easier to tackle the basic structural problems of the economy. Inflation, in short, was seen as gradually reversible in steps. All that was necessary was to change people's expectations by holding devaluation and government-controlled prices down to a monthly rise of 5 per cent and by shortening the time lag of wage compensation.

Neither that nor the repeated bombastic announcements that inflation was already coming down to the "target rate" set by Aridor and his advisers cut any ice with the public's expectations. What people saw was that the balance of payments was deteriorating rapidly as revaluation made imports cheaper. They concluded that the "5-5" policy described above could not last. And indeed, after 10 months it was abandoned. The rest of the story is fresh in our memories: the rush into foreign currency that brought about the collapse of the bank shares; the 30 per cent devaluation of last fall that appeased the speculators and proved they had been right; the replacement of Aridor by Yigal Cohen-Orad and his 180-degree reversal of policy.

The reversal followed the tried and tested pattern. Aridor had left the foreign currency till depleted and had borrowed abroad recklessly; the remedy was to push inflation up to a new level and erode real wages so sharply so as to provide relief on the balance of payments. The trouble was, as it turned out, that the old remedy that had worked with a creak and a groan with an inflation of 40 per cent, and then of 100-130 per cent, no longer worked at 400 per cent. If under Aridor the public did not believe that the foreign payments position could be maintained,

under Cohen-Orad they no longer believed that the new inflation rate would remain a plateau. The subsequent reversal to election economics, Aridor-1981 style, accelerated the process and led to a new rush into foreign currency.

THE RESULT IS staring us in the face: empty foreign currency coffers. Until Peres went to Washington, requests for fresh credits abroad met with stony faces — and we do not yet know whether the assurances given by the U.S. administration will make them smile again briefly. Inflation also brought about the collapse of the tax system and created havoc with any form of budget control. In sum, it has run out of control.

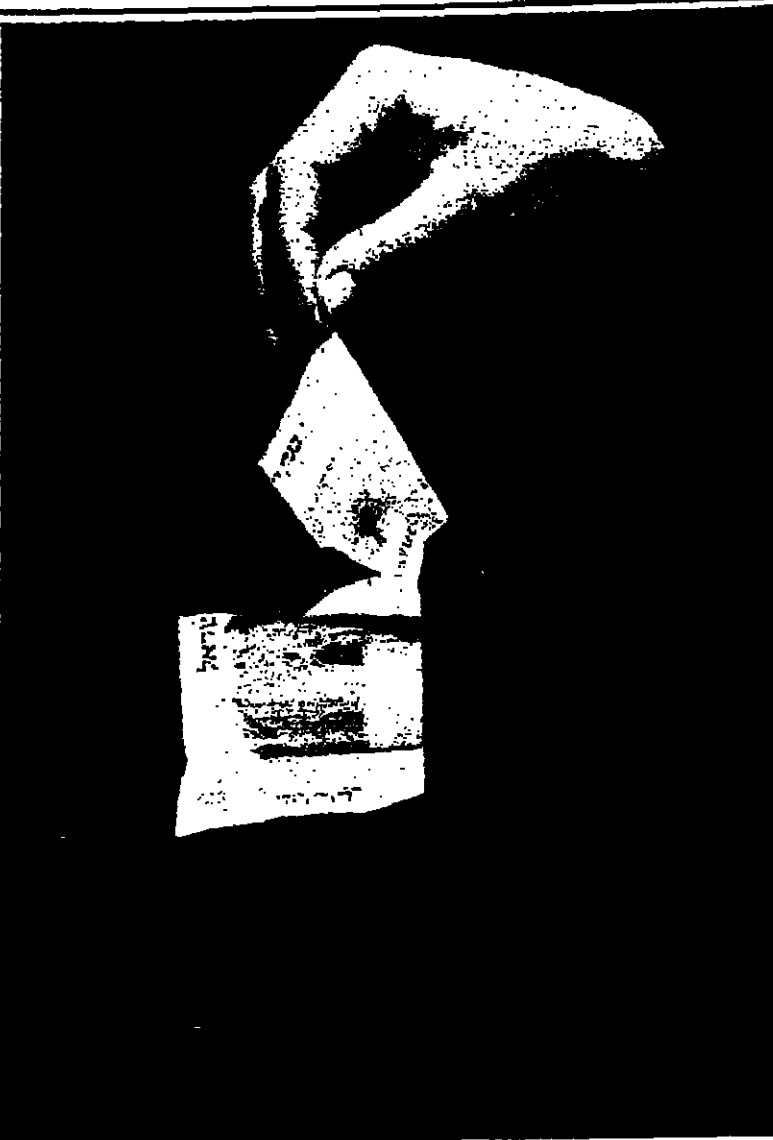
Without a basis for rational calculus, the foundations for any economic programme are shorn away. That, in essence, is why the prime minister, Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'acobi have no comprehensive plan.

Moreover — what they did in their first three weeks in office only made things worse. Having inherited an inflation rate of 400 per cent approaching 600, 800 or 1,000 per cent, they promptly pushed it up to 1,500, and by October, to possibly 2,000 and beyond.

Perhaps, to give them the benefit of the doubt, they had no choice. Perhaps, if a lifeline from Washington was imperative, one could not go there with empty hands. Another nominal devaluation; another round of wage erosion — no matter how temporary — and resolution to cut the budget — no matter that they are unimplementable as long as inflation rages — all this could be made to appear as a beginning in "putting our house in order."

Peres has succeeded in saving us, for the moment, from the worst. We shall be able to honour our foreign commitments as we have always done. We shall be able to finance the imports we need to keep the economy from breaking down.

But what now? How can inflation, which threatens us with breakdown from the other flank, be stopped? Does anybody really mean to stop it



out if there is no meaning to big cuts, because there can be no real control short of the impossible kind of specifying public expenditures in kind instead of cash. Without that, there can be neither voluntary price control nor price control. Without any demand for a cut in real wages, there would be a demand for workers sign a blank cheque.

The case for such a temporary switch to the dollar as a unit of account (with the shekel remaining the means of payment, but linked to the exchange rate) is persuasive, argued by Amos Rubin of the Bank of Israel. He proposes suspending the existing cost-of-living agreement and substituting it for the period of the stabilization process by index wages, like all other prices, to the exchange rate. This would eliminate the adjustment lag that now makes package deal impossible. It would synchronize the adjustment of wages with the rate of inflation in shekel terms, and so eliminate the jump in real wages if and when inflation stopped.

This proposal differs fundamentally from Aridor's dollarization plan: it does not seek to introduce the dollar as legal tender, it inverts the sequence of the stabilization process. Aridor wanted to reduce real wages first, by a 30 per cent devaluation, and then link them to the dollar. Cohen-Orad actually eroded real wages first and then clamoured for a package deal.

The present government has so far followed the same course. Rubin's proposal is to stabilize prices and wages first — more accurately, to put them on a stable unit of account — and to discuss everything else later.

Space does not permit going into the many technical problems involved, such as index-linked financial assets and index-linked or unlinked commercial contracts. The serious question is whether a policy based on such a scheme would be seen as credible by the public. But since the public itself has already switched to a high degree of dollarization, the risk may now be much smaller than it was a year ago.

In any case, the time has come to realize that, with all the risks involved, this is now the only way left to restore the economy to stability of calculation, if not of basic performance. That will have to be tackled later.

The suspension of the existing cost-of-living agreement will also require a "package deal," any attempt to impose it by government fiat will fail. But such a deal — which may have to be followed by another, some time later — is an altogether different animal from the deal that is still being pursued and fought on, although it may have overgrown it.

I might add that even though the Histadrut, instead of waiving the cost-of-living allowance, might be asked to agree to a determining and possibly conditional (depending on future inflation) wage cut. The surtax on income to which the Histadrut agreed was a variant of the same idea because it raises wage costs.

Two considerations dictate the immediate adoption of one or the other form of dollarization. The first is that, whether we like it or not, dollarization has become a fact. Even the government itself quotes its budget in dollars, not shekels. The spontaneous spread of dollarization has even made it a screen for inflation in terms of dollars. The second consideration is that it is the only way to restore rationality to the economic system immediately — and there is no time left.

Once this is done, more fundamental problems may be dealt with. These will be discussed in the next two articles in this series.

The writer is the economics editor of The Jerusalem Post.

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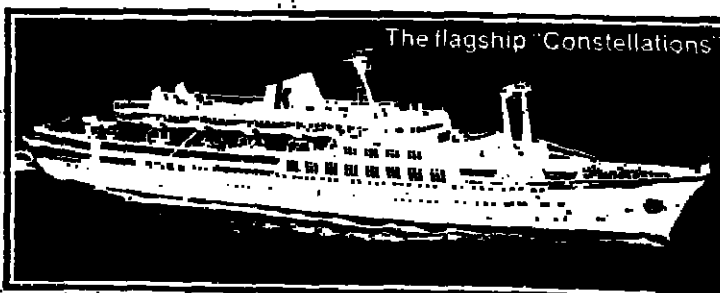
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KINES-PELLIC CLUES



# OUT OF THE DOLDRUMS

Israeli agriculture is settling down after a couple of years of crisis, reports The Post's David Krivine.



ISRAEL'S CITRUS industry is in the dumps, everybody knows that; but everybody thinks despondently that agriculture as a whole is faltering, has taken a step back, is being overtaken by events.

Statistics show the opposite. Farm exports - other than citrus - are on the rise all the time. There was a setback in 1983, which gives the farmers their chance of looking gloomy. Self-flagellation seems to be a national sport these days.

Moshavim wail and gnash their teeth; homesteads are abandoned. Yet the figures show an export rise (if we exclude citrus) during January-August of this year amounting to almost one-quarter, compared with the same period last year.

If you ask Amotz Amiad, head of Agrexco, the company which handles all the country's exports except citrus, cotton and peanuts (each of which has its own marketing board), there wasn't an actual drop in 1983 either, volume-wise.

"Behind the statistics lurks a problem," he says, "the toughest problem that Israel's agriculture has to face: the fall in value of the European currencies. Israel's earnings sank in that year, 1983, from \$367m. to \$341m., not because we sold less produce abroad, but because we sold less in Europe, where our customers are." It has continued to decline. Despite that fact, dollar earnings are actually up this year. This means that the increase is greater still in volume terms, or if measured in the European currencies earned.

"You have to see the whole picture. Five years ago if we sold a shipment for DM3m., we gained \$1.8m. for our country. Today the same volume marketed in Germany for the same price nets us only \$1m., a drop of 45 per cent." The government's exchange-rate insurance scheme makes good a third of the loss, that's all, he says.

WHAT IF the status quo was restored, and Europe's exchange rates were once more as they used to be five years ago? "We'd be in clover," he grins. "Our trade would be so profitable, you wouldn't see us for dead."

The plight of citrus distorts the statistical grand totals. If that veteran crop is included, the tumble lasted not one but two successive years, with earnings down from \$600m. in 1981 to \$553m. in 1982 and \$509m. in 1983.

But in 1982 all the damage was perpetrated by the once-revered golden lemons. Their sales dropped by 10 per cent, while other exports increased, leaving an insufficient \$14m. loss. The two years 1982 and 1983 together, citrus exports collapsed by a total of \$80m., or one-third, and are still sagging. Says Aryeh Seif, Assistant Director-General in charge of fo-

reign trade at the Ministry of Agriculture: "We expect to sell 30m. crates this year and we hope that's a bottom figure. (The top figure in the mid-Seventies was 50m. crates.) We aim to stay at 30m. for the measurable future."

WHAT WENT wrong with citrus? The grove-owners committed the unpardonable sin: they rested on their laurels. "You can't," says Amiad, "sell exactly the same product today that you sold 20 years ago." Other countries catch up and overtake. Spain is now selling pipples tangerines, Cyprus pink grapefruit. That is how it goes.

"The same ordeal faces every branch. Five years ago we were merchandising 10,000 tons of watermelons in Europe. The Spaniards were on our heels, their deliveries arrived a week or two after ours and amounted to 30,000 tons.

"Today they are in the market before us, and dispose of 70,000 tons. They make a profit at prices that wouldn't cover our shipping costs. So we have the choice either of saying 'Shalom, watermelons', or going back to the laboratory."

Israel has to produce, in other words, either a premium melon or no melon at all. The export market is everything for the farm community because the domestic market is saturated; and the export market is intensely competitive.

How in the circumstances do Israel's exports manage to go on rising? "Because when we get down to doing our homework, we can conjure up a superior product. Our celery, for example, is the best of all the varieties that Europe imports. In December-February we dominate the market." And that is just a beginning. "Our job is to extend the season, supplying celery from November through to May."

"We must also be absolutely efficient and absolutely dependable. It's not easy to coordinate supplies from a thousand farmers scattered over the different districts. Last year we ran out of celery in January. That can be fatal, next time the buyer orders from Spain.

"And don't forget that celery isn't like flowers. Flowers sell for \$5,000 a ton, so the cost of transport isn't a problem. "Celery fetches \$800 a ton, the farmer gets only 25-30 per cent of that. Half the money goes to cover shipping expenses. The Spaniards have the advantage of propinquity, and still we beat them in the market, because our stuff is so good."

The market is flexible, too, because celery is a specialized item, unlike bread or potatoes or meat that everybody eats. Best customer

for celery is Britain, so other countries must be chivvied into acquiring the taste.

Keenest clients for avocados, on the other hand, are the French. It is to their credit, they are known to possess the finest palates. "Avocados are the only product," Amiad observes, "in which we are still monopolists. A little comes from Spain, some from South Africa, though the latter arrives in a different season and doesn't compete."

Avocado sales were 40,000 tons last year. The aim is to reach 67,000 tons this year, a tremendous increase necessitating a concentrated sales drive. France alone is expected to buy 40,000 tons, an amount equal to Israel's total export figure in 1984.

"The French eat a kilogram per person a year on the average," he states. "The British eat only 60-100 grams. The Germans are backward, too." The avocado has to be glamorized in countries where it is still unfamiliar. Haim Keller, Agrexco's information officer, comes up with an original story: "We must teach the Spaniards to eat their own avocados," he mutters, "then they won't be competing with us elsewhere."

Six years! Agriculturalists brood over such figures. "Cohen-Organ [the former finance minister] wanted to improve exports and never mind inflation," they explain. "That cre-

ated problems, admittedly, but it earned us precious dollars. Now the Treasury is moving to the opposite extreme: combat inflation, and never mind the balance of payments.

"One way to economize on budgetary outlays is to stop promoting exports. When inflation is conquered, we will go back - so the argument goes - to reviving exports. "But in agriculture you can't turn things on and off overnight. Once you stop exporting the mango, it will take six years to grow them again."

Israel's farm exports (excluding citrus again) can go on expanding by a steady 10 per cent per annum, provided they are given a chance. Enough, experts say, if exchange-rate fluctuations are ironed out, so that the cultivator has some idea what is the underlying international price that he must measure up to.

ISRAELI AGRICULTURE is settling down after a couple of years of crisis. Manipulators in the Treasury and the Bank of Israel would be well advised to ensure stable financial conditions, so that progress can be maintained without dislocation. Let the battle against inflation be fought, but it should not be beyond the wit of man to do that without wrecking Israel's exports in the process.

The flower business was in trouble - this was four or five years ago - when competing Israeli agencies wanted to unload 2b. stems a year in Europe, and were enmeshed in a crisis. More recently, Seif says, a reasonable turnover has been achieved of 800m. stems. Family farms in the moshavim should be able to make a decent living out of that.

Some products cannot sell profitably, and should be dropped. (green peppers, onions). Others have a limited sales potential, and, if producers try to exceed it, prices drop. Others again have more exciting possibilities. They are usually something new, or else a new variety of something old - the iceberg lettuce, for example.

This item was developed in conjunction with Marks and Spencer. Britain's chain of retail stores. Iceberg lettuces are whisked by air from farm to London shop-shelf in 24 hours with the aid of vacuum-coolers. Exports should double this year.

Cultivation was started in the Arava, and is being extended to the Bik'a (Jordan Valley), to the benefit of settlements in those torrid areas. Amiad smiles again: "Slimness is in vogue, so lettuce has become a popular article of diet."

Every opening needs to be exploited through hard thinking, intensive research and careful planning. Extending the season means, among other possibilities, developing storage facilities. "Suppose aficionados overseas eat one Sharon fruit a day. If we can store it efficiently enough to let them go on eating this delicacy for 200 successive days, we've made it," Amiad concludes cheerfully.

There is a part-solution here to the vexatious problem of the moshavim or smallholder villages. There are probably too many of them, and some may have to close down, though not because it's impossible for them to make a living this way. Adjustments are necessary. The pairing of contingent plots (and water allocations) should be encouraged. This would provide the tenant with a larger farm unit.

At the same time, the planning authorities should sponsor intensive cultivation, in these settlements, of "high-technology" crops which can command a growing market, despite increased international competition. This is the view of experts like Amiad and Seif. "Israel's agriculture still has a sensational reputation abroad," they say.

"It's sometimes a handicap, like when the Europeans inform us that we don't have to worry about the privileged access of countries like Spain and Morocco to the Euromart. According to EEC officials, we should be able to compete despite these obstacles. 'You are such agricultural geniuses,' they tell us, 'you'll find a way.'"

The writer is a member of the editorial staff of The Jerusalem Post.

## A weekly renewal

TORA TODAY / Pinhas H. Peli

"There are," said the rabbis, "70 faces to the Torah." And that 70 became 700 and more. There was always a "new face" when one read the portion, and it was always fascinating and enthralling.

A few hundred years ago, a man wrote a book which contained no less than 913 different interpretations of Bereshit, the first word of the Torah. He stopped at 913, because that is the numerical value of the word according to the system of Gematria, in which b=2, r=200, a=1, sh=300, i=10 and t=400.

READERS OF THE TORAH were never bothered by the simpleton's question, which is often shared by the so-called "scientific mind": Of all the commentaries, which is the "true" or "real" one? They knew, as keen students of hermeneutics and modern literary criticism know, that what differentiates great literature from its lesser counterpart is, that the former can be interpreted on several levels, all equally "true" and "real." And what is true of great literature is certainly true of the word of God.

The rabbis liken it to a letter from a loved one who has gone on a long journey. In our longing for the absent beloved, how many times do we read and re-read that letter; how much meaning do we read into it; and how many different interpretations of every word come to our mind with every new reading!

The Torah is the letter which our lover left us before he departed for far away, where we can have no direct contact with him. Our only way to be with him is to read and re-read the letter. We do this every Sabbath as we read a portion of the Torah. If we are lucky we hear him and sense him again and again, always new, always fresh.

Each week provides us not only with a new text, but also with a new experience. The content of the portion read becomes part of the household for that week. The Torah reading was never the sole province of scholars or rabbis. Everyone had a share of it, according to his own level.

The vast literature of the Midrash, with its popular commentaries, parables and stories, was created by rabbis and preachers who taught the portion to the masses over a period of 1,000 years (between around 300 BCE and 700 CE). This activity was continued afterwards by the great medieval Torah commentators Saadia, Rashi, Ibn Ezra, Rashbam, Nahmanides and many others, and during the following centuries, in popular works written in languages spoken by Jews in their dispersion.

What the anthology *M'am Loez* was for hundreds of years for the Ladino-speaking Jewish communities, the *Tzema U're'ena* was for those who spoke Yiddish. These books brought the message and insights of the Torah into every home. The latter work, which became especially identified as a book to be read by women, was printed in no less than 210 editions.

In introducing the book to the English reader (currently in a new translation), its publisher, Reb Meir Holder, describes the place of the

Yiddish book in the life of the Eastern European shtetl: "Snatching a tranquil hour from her chores, our pious great-grandmother in the Old Country would seek her favourite nook between the cradle and the fireplace, and open up the well-thumbed 'Tzennarennah' (as the Hebrew title was pronounced in Yiddish) with its familiar woodcuts. Straightening her lace kerchief, she would settle down to follow the fortunes of the children of Israel in ancient times by reading from its careworn pages about the weekly portion of the Torah.

She shared the anguish of Sarah over Isaac's near-sacrifice; she humbly aspired to the selflessness of the Mother Rachel; she shed an innocent tear for young Joseph in the scorpion's pit; she shuddered over the grim details of the Egyptian bondage; exulted with Miriam at the crossing of the Red Sea; and found solace for the daily trials of *golus* (exile) in contemplating the spiritual rewards with which the patriarchs of the past together with the faithful mothers of all generations are blessed in the world to come."

THE LANGUAGES IN which the Torah is interpreted, as well as the style in which it is done, may have changed radically in recent generations. What does not change, however, is the role of the portion of the week as a source of eternally renewed inspiration and guidance for all.

The Bible reading for this Sabbath (October 20, 1984), *Shabbat Bereshit*, is Genesis 1:1-6:8. Rabbi Peli is professor of Jewish Thought and Literature, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

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OPEL RECORD 2000, 1984, passport to pas-  
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# THE JERUSALEM POST

**HALUACH HEHADASH** — Classified Advertisements  
in cooperation with MA'ARIV-HA'ARETZ-HA'IR-KOL HA'IR  
All classified advertisements for Friday submitted to Haluach Hehadash office  
by 5 p.m. Thursday preceding publication appear in this section.

## Vehicles

### Cars for Sale

For sale: Datsun 280Z 4 speed automatic + air conditioner. 1983. Chassis 1300, 4 gears, 1983. Apply Koppel Self-Drive, Yair. 03-272764.

### AUDI

Audi 80, 1982. Tel. 03-90525 from 15.10.84.

### AUTOBLANCHI

Autobianchi Junior 1983 for sale. Apply Koppel Self-Drive. Yair. 03-272764. Junior, 1980 (from rental), 376232-3. Ruthy, work from Sunday.

### B.M.W.

318 automatic 78, air conditioner, stereo, test, second owner 053-9824.

### CITROEN

Via Super 82, well kept, 45,000, test. 052-2573.

### COMMERCIAL CARS

3 + small room, built, 2nd floor, Ramat Gan border Givatayim. Tel. 784753.

### Burgin

Burgin Giv'at Savyon, 3 + phone, 2nd floor, immediate. Tel. 342149.

### Chevrolet Van

Chevrolet Van (passenger), 1981, excellent condition. 70675, work.

### From Import Engines

From Import Engines, gears, axles and various parts for all kinds of trucks. Muskat, Spare Parts, Tel. 03-809662, 51 Hamael, Holon Industrial Zone.

### Transit

Transit, 1979, good condition, radio, 80,000 km. 03-42611.

### GMC 35

GMC 35, double back axle, open, 1974, 03-71925, 03-24624.

### Volkswagen 75

Volkswagen 75, year test, mechanical, 70,000 km. 78287, 96908.

### DELTA

Rasi Bank border Ramat Gan, 3 partially furnished + phone. Tel. 784753.

### FIAT

Burgin 132 automatic, 1980 after overhaul, 75, Tel. 03-596387.

### Fiat 131

Fiat 131 Miniflori, L, 2500km. 052-538334.

### FORD

Brenda 1300, 1977, 4, overhaul, test. 874093, 852252.

### Cordia

Cordia 1600, 1974, automatic, after overhaul, excellent condition. Home. 03-740992. Work 03-901560.

### Cordia 1600L

Cordia 1600L, 1976, good condition. Tel. 352841.

### Givatayim

Givatayim, for serious couple, 2 furnished, gas, refrigerator, air conditioner, phone. Tel. 323524, 876325.

### KOEEVEN

KOEEVEN slotted and painting at School for Painting and Art. S. Kalisher, Tel Aviv. Tel. 03-67348.

### Ramat Gan

Ramat Gan, 4 furnished, lift, phone. 5700, Tel. 747691.

### LANCIA

Beta 1600, 1980, air conditioner, stereo, automatic, second owner. 03-863886.

### Mercedes

1980, 1978, air conditioner, like new. 03-798361.

### Mercedes

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### OPEL

Ascona Station Lux, 1983, 23,000 km. Tel. 765120.

### Ascona 1300 S

Ascona 1300 S 1983, automatic, exciting spray. 02-662306.

### PEUGEOT

205 GR 1984, passport to passport or regular. Tel. 052-34192.

### 404 Van

404 Van, 1982, 134,000 km., good condition. Tel. 03-729734.

### 304, 1978

304, 1978, excellent condition, radio, year test. Tel. 03-448266.

## Jerusalem

### Cars for Sale

Alfa Romeo 83, 25,000 km., excellent condition. Tel. 02-66531, 690680.

### Autobianchi Junior

Autobianchi Junior, 1983, one owner, lovely! Tel. 02-242963, day.

### Fiat 127

Fiat 127 Station, 1983, 20,000 km., alarm. Tel. 02-66531, 690680.

### Landia Beta

Landia Beta 1600, 1978, 65,000 km. Tel. 663886.

### Opel Kadett

Opel Kadett, 1982, 29,000 km., 512,000. Tel. 02-66531, 690680.

### Subaru 1300 S

Subaru 1300 S, 1982, 2nd owner, 32,000 km., tape. Tel. 02-71761.

### Subaru 1600

Subaru 1600 Station, 1979, lift price. Tel. 02-88476.

### VW Beetle

VW Beetle 1300, 1964, 1980 engine, new battery, mechanically good. 5500. Tel. 851172, weekdays.

### Herzliya Pinhas

Herzliya Pinhas, house on dunam, excellent location. 330,000. Alon. 052-51717.

### Herzliya Pinhas

Herzliya Pinhas, house, 7 rooms. 524,000. Alon. 052-51717.

### Herzliya Pinhas

Herzliya Pinhas, lovely villa for rent. 1000. 238176, 236258.

### Holon S.A.P.

Holon S.A.P., new building 5 story building, 4 room luxury flats, Rehov Goldstein corner Hava Reich. S.A.P., 64 Sokolow, Holon. 03-88848.

### Kfar Sava

Kfar Sava, S.A.P., now building luxury 4 room flats, Rehov Ben Gurion corner Hava Reich. S.A.P., 64 Sokolow, Holon. 03-88848.

### B.M.W. 315

B.M.W. 315, 1983, one owner, metallic, all extras. 02-541019, 02-541897.

### Chevrolet

Chevrolet, Vaudeville, long, 1979, excellent, one owner. 417138, 722222.

### Chicago Cars

Chicago Cars, purchase, sale, agency and exchange of all cars. 02-717110.

### Citroen GSA

Citroen GSA, 1983, 1300, 15,000 km., radio. 02-544311.

### Fiat 131

Fiat 131 Mirafiori, 1980, like new, air conditioner. 02-851760.

### Fiat 127

Fiat 127, 1975, 91,000 km., test, good condition. 02-243711.

### Fiat Panda

Fiat Panda, 1982, 31,000 km., second owner. 02-711878, 16,000.

### Ford Cortina

Ford Cortina 2000, overhaul, 79,000 km., stereo, burglar. 02-226720, 02-8694.

### Ford Cortina

Ford Cortina 1600, automatic, 1981, 87,723 km., after overhaul.

### Ford Transit

Ford Transit, ambulance, 1971, 55308, work hours.

### Landia 1600

Landia 1600, 78, after general overhaul, luxurious, rare. 03-523761.

### Must sell

Must sell, Renault Fuego, 84, passport to passport possible. 03-86167.

### Opel Ascona

Opel Ascona 13, 1984, 8,700, metallic, stereo and more. 02-71872.

### Peugeot 404

Peugeot 404, automatic, 1972, Peugeot 404 station, 1973, 55308, work hours.

### Peugeot 404

Peugeot 404 GR, 1983, 15,000 km., one owner. 41944.

## Furnished Flats

### 2 furnished

2 furnished, kitchen, phone, near sea, also for tourists. 03-443622.

### Migdal David

Migdal David, 3 (4), tall, beautiful, Canadian International. 28622-305.

### Monthly rental

Monthly rental, Yad-Eliyahu, 2nd floor, 4 furnished, air conditioned, phone, immediately available. 03-39538.

### North, 2 1/2 and 1 furnished

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North, 3 1/2 rooms, air conditioner, phone, fully furnished, 442704.

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### Oran



# Forum

WASHINGTON. — During his nationally televised debate against Geraldine Ferraro, Vice-President George Bush suggested that "the answer" to terrorism in the Middle East "is a solution to the Palestinian question." He insisted that terrorism would be reduced only if President Reagan's September 1, 1982 Arab-Israeli peace plan were acted on. "That will reduce terrorism," he said. "It won't eliminate it."

Bush's direct linkage of the spread of Middle East terrorism and the Arab-Israeli conflict was in marked contrast to the prevailing Israeli assessment. Israeli officials see all sorts of factors resulting in increased terrorism — most of which have nothing to do with Israel per se.

It is Israel's detractors, they note, who have consistently sought to make the "simplistic" connection between the Arab-Israeli conflict and the spread of anti-American terrorism. They were the ones who linked the death of the American Marines in Beirut to the initial Israeli invasion. Most Americans, however, did not draw that conclusion.

Israeli officials also have repeatedly argued against the notion that a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict would necessarily result in a completely peaceful Middle East. Bush's statement appeared to give the contrary "Arabist" spin — namely, that the Palestinian question is the heart of the tensions in the region, and if only it were solved, things would be harmonious in that part of the world.

This line of thinking, Israeli officials said, ignores the many national, religious, ethnic and ideological conflicts within various Arab countries and throughout the region — Iran-Iraq, Libya-Egypt, Syria-Iraq, Morocco-Algeria, etc. They really have nothing to do with Israel. Even if Israel did not exist at all, there would still be terrorism and all sorts of tensions in the region.

The vice-president's remarks particularly raised eyebrows among Israeli officials in Washington and their American Jewish supporters because they came in the midst of a bitter overall election campaign and a fierce competition for Jewish support. Even Reagan officials conceded that the Bush comments were "at best, sloppy."

Bush went on to describe Israel as "our one strategic ally in the area. They are the one democracy in the area and our relations with them have never been better."

But that did not ease all the concerns since he also endorsed U.S. arms sales to "moderate Arab states...helping with defensive weapons to guard against international terrorism or radical Islam perpetuated by Khomeini. And because we've done that, and because the Saudis chopped a couple of those intruding airplanes a while back, I think we have helped keep the peace in the Persian Gulf."

His use of the word "Palestine" — as opposed to the "Palestinian" — was acknowledged as "potentially embarrassing" by U.S. officials who

## Looking ahead to 1985

By WOLF BLITZER / Post Washington Correspondent



Vice-President George Bush

recognized that in the delicate code-words of the Middle East, this could be seized upon as a possible U.S. endorsement of an independent Palestinian state. The Arabs, after all, are the ones who usually speak of "the Palestine question."

Reagan and other U.S. officials have repeatedly expressed opposition to such a state. Bush's choice of words, one administration insider

said, was "unfortunate."

Other spokesmen insisted that Bush's praise of Israel's strategic value underlined his real position — and not the remark about "the Palestine question."

Still, the vice-president's off-the-cuff statement on the Middle East, understandably, generated concern among Israeli officials because they appeared to signal some possible troubles during a second Reagan administration.

Democratic challenger Walter Mondale may be catching up in the public opinion polls. But Reagan is still the favorite to win the November 6 contest. That means that Israeli officials, more dependent than ever on continued U.S. economic, military and political support, are very carefully weighing every utterance coming from the administration.

Bush's defence of U.S. arms sales to "moderate" Arabs, Israeli officials said, almost certainly foreshadowed some major new deals with Saudi Arabia and perhaps Jordan.

That, in turn, will increase the defence burden on Israel to keep pace with a crushingly expensive arms race.

In fairness to Reagan, Israeli officials and others are convinced that a



Geraldine Ferraro

Mondale administration would similarly undertake new arms commitments to the Arabs, given the built-in military, political and commercial pressures from the Pentagon, the Arab states and big business. The only difference, one Israeli official commented, will be in the timing. The Reagan administration, he said, will move much more quickly. With a Mondale administration, there will

be some additional "breathing space."

The fact is that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the major pro-Israeli lobbying organization in Washington, is already gearing up for some renewed battles in Congress on this arms-to-the-Arabs front — with either Reagan or Mondale in the White House.

All of this is significant in trying to look ahead, especially in the aftermath of Prime Minister Shimon Peres's successful visit to Washington. By all accounts, Peres managed to establish an excellent personal rapport with Reagan, Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and other U.S. officials.

But here and there, there are still hints of Israeli nervousness. There are bound to be some greater strains in 1985 than this year, Israeli officials said, irrespective of a Democratic or a Republican victory. First years of administrations historically have proven more difficult than election years.

Thus, Reagan the other day, again promised he was going to press ahead in reviving the peace process — something which everyone recognizes could trigger troubles with Jerusalem.

He was asked by U.S. News and World Report whether he was prepared to press Israel to end West Bank settlement activity in order to get peace talks restarted. "We have not insisted that they end the settlements, but in my conversations with

Prime Minister Peres in his visit here, I talked about the West Bank and the part it plays in getting peace talks going," he replied. "We had very, very frank discussions, and I'm very optimistic about his desire to get something going peace-wise."

The president noted that Peres "honestly wants to get out of Lebanon, but he can't do it until there is a provision that will protect Israel's northern border."

The latest fallout from the apparently differing U.S. and Israeli interpretations of a suggestion by Shultz to Peres that Israel might want to postpone temporarily repayment of some of its debt to the U.S. further tended to remove some of the earlier glitter from the Reagan-Peres summit.

The New York Times reported that senior administration officials were irked by Israeli comments on this sensitive matter. One U.S. official said the two countries were on "different wave-lengths" over whether Shultz had actually agreed to a 90-day deferral of \$500 million in scheduled payments about to come due. Shultz told reporters that the Israeli description of the issue was "strange."

There happens to be a legitimate misunderstanding between Washington and Jerusalem on this issue — a misunderstanding which will be cleared up quickly as the two sides begin their formal joint economic committee sessions aimed at reaching concrete steps to improve the Israeli economy.

CAN THERE BE GREATER opposites than Moshe Dayan and those who died by their own hand at Masada? Yet in the introduction to the lithograph album *Masada*, by Raymond Morli, which Dayan wrote three months before his death, he chose the epic of Masada as a spiritual example for his people.

Why did Dayan particularly choose this dramatic event as a message for future generations? After all, he was not one for old or new myths; rather, he subjected everything — past and present — to his own, original, sweeping scrutiny.

It may have been due to his deeply ingrained pessimism which caused him to conclude his statement on Masada by comparing its commander, Elazar B. Yair, to another tragic figure of Jewish history, King Saul, who also "fell upon his sword." Also in this connection (and also not by chance), he cited the poem of his favourite poet, Nathan Alterman: "Behold, Day and its Night Approach."

It could be that the Masada myth, for all its grandeur, attests to the compulsive concern with death in all its forms which accompanies the process of the return to the homeland and its rebuilding — a process in which Dayan played so central a role.

Or perhaps Dayan even wished to hint that qualitative superiority would not always protect Israel in the face of quantity: "Masada fell because of the Roman conquerors' preponderance of military strength vis-a-vis the Jewish defenders."

Therefore, he might have been saying, Israel's leadership would do well to bestir itself and seek peace with the country's neighbours.

DAYAN, IN ANY CASE, was preoccupied with death — not personal death: to that he was reconciled, almost philosophically. But he was not reconciled to the death of boys who fell on the field of battle in the name of the nation. And in this context one can understand the opening lines of his book *Milestones*: "My name 'Moshe' was conceived in pain. It was given me in memory of the first to fall at Deganya" (ibid, p. 17). He never made his peace with that death, which was a result of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Dayan's magnanimity and sensitivity would surface especially at moments of tragedy when, at military cemeteries throughout the country, he would take leave of the courageous fighters who had fallen in battle.

He was revolted by the professional eulogizers who were careless in their choice of words and who uttered worn and hackneyed phrases.

If he spoke at the graveside, which he did not always do, each word — measured, true and unpoetic, with its earnestness, simplicity and poetry — touched the heart.

So it was with his now-famous eulogy for Ro'i Rotenberg, who fell in the fields of Nahal Oz on the border of the Gaza Strip. "Let me begin with the morning Ro'i was killed. The stillness of the spring

## Message of Masada

Michael Shashar remembers Moshe Dayan, who died three years ago.



morning blinded him to those at the ridge, lying in wait to take his life...Not from the Arabs in Gaza but from ourselves should we seek to avenge his blood. How did we close our eyes to our present fate; how did we not see our generation's destiny in all of its harshness? We are the generation settling in the land, and without the steel helmet and the tense throat we will be unable to plant a tree or build a house..." (ibid, p. 191).

This was also the case, I remember, when he spoke at the grave of Gen. (res.) Arye Regev, who fell in the Jordan Valley — "a military man the likes of whom arise only seldom in each generation."

"Our people knew how...to create concepts and designations for the rare few who arose to save and defend it. In the days of the Judges, they were called 'saviours' and in the Diaspora 'righteous ones'...through whose merit our people preserved its body

and soul. In this generation, our youth are creating a nation...Gen. (res.) Arye Regev was...the strongest amongst the courageous, first in the vanguard, the leader and trail-blazer in time of trouble, a great soldier, an outstanding fighter for the Jewish people...We do not take leave of our fallen, for we cannot reach our goals without the lustre of the faith, the devotion and the example in which we are bathed from the earthly remains of the best of our comrades who fall alongside us day after day, night after night..." (ibid, pp. 537-538).

PRECISELY for that reason, Dayan felt himself like a wounded, caged lion when, after the Yom Kippur War, the bereaved parents branded him as the murderer of their children. He had always been able to bear any insult and did not, in fact, take notice of most his detractors because deep down he felt them to be of little consequence.

Now, however, he was really

touched to the quick. In this war, he had fallen victim to his intuition, which had usually stood him in good stead: for, unlike others, he really believed, and he repeatedly insisted, that the Egyptians would never accept Israel's continued presence at the Suez Canal, which was their lifeline. But he feared Soviet intervention (as on the Golan Heights in the Six Day War) and this blinded him to the obviousness of Egypt's intentions.

In choosing between his intuition as a leader and facing reality — that is, making decisions based on the detailed work of experts whose analyses came primarily from written documentation — Dayan undoubtedly favoured intuition, for better or for worse. I was made aware of this by Prof. Yehoshafat Harkabi who is, in this respect, the antithesis of Dayan but whose conclusions are perhaps not so far apart.

WHEREAS ONE can certainly point to originality, sweep and daring in Dayan's political thought, this is not so when it comes to his "Judaism." Here he did not deviate, in essence, from the Jewish pattern characteristic of his forebears and which, in short, defined his Judaism in a normal secular-nationalistic

way, without concern for its unique problems.

He did not believe in God and hence attributed no significance to halachic Judaism, certainly not in our day. He saw our cultural sources as being in the West (without discounting this culture itself in its severe crisis) and his Judaism expressed itself in the fact of living in Israel, in his strong tie with the Bible (and not at all to post-biblical sources), and in the nurturing of Hebrew.

Perhaps if he had lived longer he would have found time to deal with such existential matters as "the eternal people." In any case, as a native of Israel, he was not equipped for this difficult task. His knowledge of Judaism in the traditional sense was very weak and only on rare occasions did he indicate any interest in it.

For all of his famous phrase "Fear not, O Jacob my servant," he was more like the biblical Esau than Jacob, the Jew. What he wanted to know and identify with was the family that had lived "in Wadi Beerseba 2,000 years before the Patriarch Abraham. It knew every word and hill. This is its country, its native land. This certainly loved it...I don't even have to close my eyes to relive it, to see the live coals and the woman bent over them with a pot for her family...my family." (ibid., the closing words, p. 738).

TO RETURN to real life, it is surprising that social problems bothered him not at all — neither in his youth nor in his later years; not even when he served as minister of agriculture. The betterment of society, which was the centre of the spiritual and ideological world for those of the Second Aliya, which included his father, Shmuel, did not touch him at all. Nor did his mother's dream of "an egalitarian society in

Russia" (ibid, p. 18). "Partnership, sociability and egalitarianism did not suit me or my lifestyle," (ibid, p. 35), he himself wrote.

His was an intransigence and authority which often trampled over people, yet it was coupled with a gentility and a humane attitude to everyone, great and small, Jew and Arab alike; often, though, he was a "lone wolf," seemingly uninterested in people.

He neither smoked nor played cards. He once told me how this had come about: "(In 1939) when we — the 43 — were imprisoned at Acre, we had lots of time on our hands. Many began to smoke and play cards. But I withdrew into my corner and never succumbed to these simple temptations."

Though he did not have an especially broad, systematic education, he was a man of the world in the fullest sense of the word; seeing beyond the here and now, even though his two feet were firmly grounded in reality. He knew that (often to twist the meaning of Prov. 14:34), "the kindness of nations is a sin," but that in the modern Jewish state it is also impossible to sanctify the slogan: "It is a people that shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations." In this, he followed the path of his great mentor, David Ben-Gurion.

"Moshe," as he was known by many, exuded such an uncommon strength and radiated such a sense of almost super-human security to those around him that they — not he, the avowed pessimist — wanted to believe for a moment that if ever there were someone immortal, it is Moshe Dayan.

The author, an aide to then-prime minister Ezer Weizman, previously served as consul in New York and as spokesman of the military government in the territories.

## THE JERUSALEM POST

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## TWO-IN-ONE CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Running all sorts of rock groups, being hot stuff (4)
  - Fit shawl over their heads, not doing their work properly (4-4)
  - Excess consumers! (8)
  - Not much water for ship leaving the East (8)
  - Stops one having a drink (6)
  - Work in firm's accounts dept on financial abstract? (8)
  - Claimed back-payments from the staff's personal funds (8)
  - Some distance away in the past (6)
  - Write off grade 'G' clothes like this — unfit for wearing! (8)
  - Cow of a girl! Quite the opposite, surely? (8)
  - Upright people are trying to get political office (8)
  - A sign you must quit getting this (6)
  - As a matter of fact, it's a different thing entirely (6)
  - Eccentric lover, and how he travels, fearing both ships and planes (8)
  - Uses a pen holder, perhaps! (8)
  - Describes a desert raid going wrong (4)

- DOWN**
- Grail they smashed is important to the astronomer (5-4)
  - Advocate senior officer as top barman, so to speak? (8-7)
  - Party leader like Mrs Thatcher, not Neil Kinnock (7-)
  - Write like this? Understood! (7)
  - Just the air for Aussie dancing-girl? (8, 7)
  - Taste one! (5)
  - Curses a shot gone wild (5)
  - The Russians like Ginger Rogers! (5-6)
  - Carmen describes some clubs (7)
  - Can't fly fishermen use them? (7)
  - Add relish to food taken on board, being in a boat (5)
  - Long to be held by a dashing knight! (5)
  - Used by Spanish dancers (9)
  - Term for the US flag (5, 3, 7)
  - Making beer, etc (7)
  - Quite unyielding (7)
  - Run away fast (4, 2, 4, 5)
  - A metric measure (5)

- Quickie**
- They give milk (4)
  - Given to bragging (8)
  - To choke (8)
  - Lower-leg ornament (6)
  - Provides entertainment (6)
  - Not doing anything (8)
  - A church service (8)
  - Eg, Capricorn (6)
  - Biblical strong man (6)
  - Become less (8)
  - Elizabethan type of song (8)
  - Angora wool (6)
  - Not difficult (6)
  - Replied (8)
  - Pampered (8)
  - Hit with open hand (4)

**Quick Solution**

ACROSS: 1. Scint. 4. Urring. 9. Liberal. 16. Uppet. 11. Core. 12. Crevice. 13. Ode. 14. Lamb. 18. Tree. 18. Tie. 20. Rooster. 21. Blue. 24. Stole. 25. Magi. 26. System. 27. Milan. DOWN: 1. Solace. 2. Ember. 3. Tart. 5. Roulette. 6. Inspire. 7. Gather. 8. Place. 12. Obstacle. 13. Amorous. 17. Crisis. 19. Trump. 19. Sermon. 22. Local. 23. Adam.



# Back to real wages

By RICHARD ABLIN

SINCE THE START of the new government's negotiations with the Histadrut and the employers for a package deal to stop our raging hyper-inflation, the public has not heard a word about the most important necessary element of any such "deal" - that there must, during the transition, be several special cost-of-living payments, not computed according to the ordinary formula.

This is necessary in order to prevent the existing system from producing an economically ruinous jump in real wages.

Instead of recognition of this obvious fact, we have been treated by the Histadrut representatives to ceaseless repetition of the phrase that "no agreement is possible that would touch in any way the existing cost of living mechanism."

Let us hope that this, on the face of it absurd, position is simply "negotiating tactics." But does either the Histadrut or the government really believe that keeping the public in the dark is the best way of conducting a critical fight to rescue our monetary and price system from collapse?

For let us not delude ourselves: the eleventh hour for saving this system has now come. We frittered away every opportunity until a national unity government (or at least a government on friendly terms with the Histadrut) could tackle the problem, and such a government now exists.

There is no further room for failure in meeting this challenge. The reason is that failure to achieve a price freeze (or step-by-step inflation restraint) in the next month or two, will mean that the latest round of sharp cost shocks will again be converted (as usual under our combination of indiscriminate wage indexation and monetary accommodations), into a much higher inflation rate, this time probably above 1,000 per cent.

But this world-record inflation

rate will not be the end. We shall almost immediately hear outcries from individual unions - or from the Histadrut as a whole - demanding that C-o-L adjustments be paid not monthly, but bi-monthly or weekly, to offset the much steeper erosion of real wages between monthly linkage adjustments at such a rate of inflation.

But since the government, more or less correctly, considers it necessary to retain the real cuts in wages and other private incomes imposed by the latest measures (most of which merely withdrew the irresponsible concessions made during the 3-4 month period of election economics), cutting the period of linkage will only lead to a further sharp boost in the rate of inflation (possibly to 2,000 per cent).

Moreover, this absurd, self-destructive spiral, which we experienced in October 1983 and in April 1984 (when it was agreed to cut the period of wage linkage from a quarter to a month) has no definitive limit. Even a hyper-inflation of the 1923 German type is no longer out of the question.

IN THE LIGHT of the above message, let us show why a price of special adjustment is essential in the transition to a price level freeze or to any radical disinflation.

Of necessity, each wage-linkage adjustment lags significantly behind the price-level change to which it relates. If inflation were stable, this would make no difference to real wages. The linkage adjustment related to earlier price changes would be the same as that called for by

current inflation. But it is easy to see the drastic effect of this lag when the rate of inflation changes radically.

Imagine a situation in which the price level has been absolutely stable, and suddenly, say on October 1, we begin to have price rises of 15 per cent per month. If wage-price linkage could operate immediately, this would produce a simultaneous 15 per cent rise in nominal wages (assuming 100 per cent linkage for simplicity), and real wages would remain perfectly stable.

But given the actual lag in wage-price linkage, on October 1 there would be a zero C-o-L adjustment (reflecting the zero price change from July to August); on November 1 another zero adjustment (reflecting the zero price change from August to September); and on December 1 an adjustment of still only about 7.5 per cent (reflecting the rise from September to the October average).

Only on January 1 would the adjustment finally equal the new rate of inflation which had been going on since October 1.

Meanwhile, of course, the rise in prices from October 1 to January 1 would have eroded the real wage level by the huge amount of about 30 per cent. Moreover, so long as the inflation rate remained at this new level, and the initial erosion was not offset by negotiated adjustments, this lower real wage level would persist. Only if inflation were halted (or reduced) would the linkage system alone tend to restore the earlier real wage level, by a simple reversal of the lag effects described above.

SO MUCH for the mechanics of the wage linkage system. Notwithstanding these mechanics, a sudden stoppage (or even a sharp cut) of inflation today - which is the purpose of a freeze - would bring about a completely unacceptable jump in real wages, unless transitional adjustments were made.

This is simply because, in the course of our actual climb to recent inflationary levels, the mechanical reduction of real wages resulting from wage linkage has been more than offset by negotiated wage increases. These have maintained a rising trend in real wages, even at a rate above that justified by productivity.

Let us calculate the implied effect on real wages of instituting a perfectly successful price freeze while mindlessly adhering to the existing wage-linkage rules.

To simplify this illustration I am assuming that inflation has been at a steady 15 per cent monthly rate, and that on October 1 it falls to zero. We have to calculate what happens to real wages relative to their average level before the freeze - which means their mid-point between one monthly C-o-L payment and the next. (The calculation appears in the first table at right.)

The jump in real wages would be even greater than the 24 per cent shown if we also follow - as the Histadrut also nominally insists - all previously agreed negotiated wage rises, which were largely intended to offset the expected erosion due to the 80 per cent linkage coefficient, given the expected ongoing high inflation.

In the above table, three "special" C-o-L adjustments would be required in the transition to a freeze in order to maintain real wages at their previous average level. (They are shown in the second table.)

On January 1, the C-o-L allowance calculated in the regular way may resume, compensating for whatever price rises continue to take place after October 1.

THE READER will doubtless have realized that the size of the jump in real wages under this system, and hence the need for special adjustments, is directly related to the height of inflation before the freeze. Thus, if the trend were as bad as 20 per cent per month (very possible in the next few months because of the government's latest measures), the result would be as indicated in the third table.

So in this case, mechanical adherence to the system would cause real wages to leap by a third (again, more, if the negotiated rises agreed upon are taken into account). One can just imagine the sort of unemployment crisis that would result from the cuts in aggregate demand now being imposed plus anything like the sort of real-wage escalation calculated above.

It is of course possible to describe the necessary offsets to the mechanical effect of the lagging wage-linkage system as "negotiated wage reductions" rather than as "special linkage adjustments." But this is just playing with words. Call it what you will, but face the challenge of making the technical adjustments necessary to shift the economy into an environment of price stability.

Reductions in employer contributions to National Insurance are sometimes suggested as an alternative way of avoiding a rise in real labour costs. But in 1983, such contributions amounted to only about 12 per cent of wages. Thus, this is not a practical alternative, even if it were

C-o-L adjustment due	Adjustment at 80%	Real wage after adjustment (av. level in Sept. = 100)
Oct. 1 (change in average price level, July-Aug. = 15%)	12%	104
Nov. 1 (change Aug.-Sept. = 15%)	12%	117
Dec. 1 (change Sept. average-Oct. 1 = 7.5%)	6%	124
Jan. 1 (change Oct.-Nov., first within freeze = 0%)	0%	124
	Special adjustment	Real wage after adjustment (av. level in Sept. = 100)
Oct. 1	7.5%*	100
Nov. 1	0%	100
Dec. 1	0%	100
*The October adjustment brings real wages back to their September average.		
Relevant change in price	C-o-L adjustment (80%)	Real wage after adjustment (Sept. av. = 100)
Oct. 1 July-Aug. = 20%	16%	105.5
Nov. 1 Aug.-Sept. = 20%	16%	122.4
Dec. 1 Sept. av.-Oct. 1 = 10%	8%	132.2

reasonable to thus drastically increase real wages at the expense of other forms of taxation (or a much larger government deficit?)

I WILL CONCLUDE by being brutally frank. If, while engaging in a tug-of-war over marginal changes in real wages - whether, after their boost by election economics real wages should go back to their level (about 10 per cent lower) in the six months following October 1983 - the political leaders of the government and the Histadrut are not capable of adjusting to the elementary logical requirements for controlling the price level, then we shall apparently not be able to avoid seeing our monetary system go up in smoke.

But it is strange that Icelanders, for example, could understand that getting rid of hyper-inflation cannot be accomplished without special adjustment, or even abolition, of automatic wage indexation.

However, I am willing to assume that, where there is life, there is hope, and that our politicians, union leaders, and even our editorial writers, will shortly get down to the job of doing their sums seriously, and will come up with a plan which can put an end to our own hyper-inflation, without crippling the economy in the process. The first step is to admit publicly, and to focus on, the real issues involved.

The writer is an analyst of political and economic affairs.

# History on canvas

LETTER FROM LOS ANGELES / Tom Tugend

IT IS NO EASY task to depict 330 years of Jewish life in the United States in one piece of art and when Benjamin Dworkin, general manager of the Mount Sinai Memorial Park and Mortuary, conceived the idea seven years ago, he thought big.

The result was unveiled this month when the cemetery, perched high in the Hollywood Hills, dedicated its Heritage mosaic amidst a flurry of press releases and momentous statistics.

From end to end, the mosaic measures 44 metres in length and 9 metres in height. Based on an oil painting by American-Irish artist Neil Boyle, it is composed of 2.5 million pieces of coloured Venetian glass imported from Italy.

"The mosaic unfolds its pictorial history from right to left. The opening panel symbolizes the landing of the first 23 Jews in New Amsterdam (now Manhattan) in 1654, through the figure of a proud immigrant

cradling a Tora scroll in his arms.

In a nice touch, John Fietelaars, the local consul general of the Netherlands, was on hand at the dedication with a gift of 1,654 tulip bulbs from his nation. The tulips will be planted in the gardens surrounding the mosaic.

Succeeding panels portray the opening of the first synagogue in the colonies; Jewish participation in the struggle against British rule; publication of the first Jewish newspaper and establishment of the Jewish Sunday school system.

The central portion focuses on the westward movement of the Jews, the

mass immigration from Eastern Europe, the vibrant life in New York's lower East Side, the trade union struggles of the garment workers, and the start of the movie industry.

In the final portion, Jewish soldiers fight in America's wars; Chaim Weizmann and Harry Truman meet as the state of Israel is established; Albert Einstein and other scholars contribute to America's intellectual growth and, finally, an American Jewish family looks confidently beyond the mosaic and into the future.

A committee of artists, scholars

and historians advised Mount Sinai in selecting and authenticating the major events portrayed in the mosaic, according to a spokesperson, who declined to reveal the cost of the enterprise.

THOUGH HARDLY diminutive, the Mount Sinai mosaic is all but dwarfed by another work of art, already trumped as the largest painting in California, now taking shape under the watchful eyes of Israeli artist Yaacov Agam.

Agam's "canvas" measures 9,200 sq.m. and consists of the six exterior sides of Le Mondrian, a new

luxury hotel in West Hollywood. Agam is following the style of his other large-scale "kinetic paintings," in which the images appear to shift constantly according to the viewer's changing perspective.

The truly kinetic or moving portion of the work will be a painted outside elevator, going up and down the 44-metre height of the L-shaped building. The entire project, to be completed by the end of the year at a cost of over \$1m. (including the price of 490 gallons of paint), will be topped off with the installation of three large kinetic and mobile sculptures by Agam.

Even before its completion, the work has been hailed by civic officials as "an instantaneous Los Angeles landmark," much to the pleasure of Severyn and Arnold Ashkenazy.

The brothers Ashkenazy are immigrant entrepreneurs and art lovers (Severyn was born in Poland,

Arnold in Austria), who are rapidly building a chain of first-class hotels in Los Angeles. Their flagship is L'Ennata in Beverly Hills, the city's only 5-star hotel, trailed by four others in West Hollywood, and two more opening soon.

Each of the Ashkenazy hotels carries a specific artistic theme. Agam's work, "Hommage à Mondrian" and the hotel it envelops are tributes to the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian (1872-1944), the leading exponent of the artistic and design movement known as De Stijl.

Each side of the hotel will display a different period in the Dutch painter's artistic development.

"Mondrian predicted that in the future we will live in 'realized works of art' and that is what we are trying to achieve with the Le Mondrian hotel," notes Severyn Ashkenazy.

THE CLAREMONT Colleges, 50 kilometres east of Los Angeles, faced a problem in planning High Holy Days services for the small Jewish student body. How could the organizers attract Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist students

to the unified service without offending anyone?


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AN UPDATED and expanded Jewish Consumer and Tourist Guide to San Francisco has been published, including points of Jewish interest and listings of kosher restaurants, synagogues, singles clubs and theatres.

The guide may be ordered for \$4.50 by writing to JCTC, 2039 35th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116.

THE CHABAD-Lubavitcher movement raised \$3.1m in pledges and contributions during its highly publicized telethon last week. The six-hour television programme over a local station featured a parade of Hollywood personalities and Los Angeles politicians.

The money, according to Rabbi Boruch Shlomo Cunin, will go toward retiring the debt on a new headquarters building and to support Chabad's 31 centres in California.



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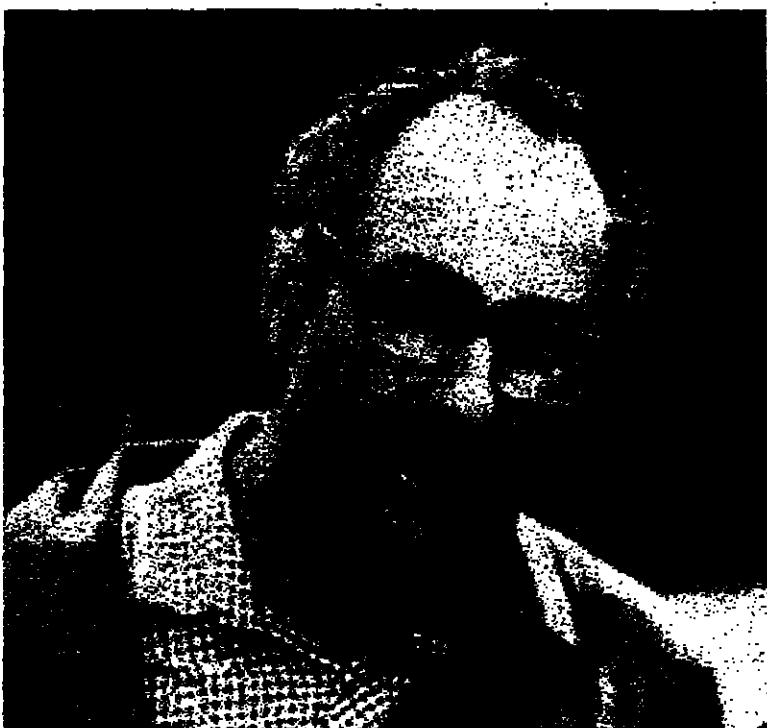
- **BEERSHEBA:** Every second Sunday (STARTING NEXT WEEK) at 7.30 p.m., Leviv Community Centre, Rm. 12 (behind Merkaz Gilat, on the #7 bus, near the #6). For more information, call Mitzit at 421743 or Tamar, 70621 (after 3).
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- **JORDAN VALLEY:** Thursdays, call Larry at 067-56842.

The Jerusalem Post sponsors all Scrabble clubs in Israel.



# GRIM ANNIVERSARY

Martin Gilbert describes the plight of Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun.



Yosef Begun photographed in 1982.

less people, but rather that they are betraying their true homeland." In his letter of protest, Begun noted that the film, which lasted for more than an hour, left the viewer "with a deep impression." Its anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli thrust, he wrote, "cannot hide its anti-Jewish essence. An uninformed viewer gets the feeling of dislike and suspicion of all Jews." As a result of this, all Jews who had decided to emigrate, or who had received a refusal and were trying to defend their right to leave, were put "in a very difficult and dangerous situation."

Despite the television attack, Begun continued to teach Hebrew. At the same time he was repeatedly refused permission to register as a Hebrew teacher. Under Soviet law he was therefore unemployed, and on March 3, 1977 he was arrested. Charged with leading "a parasitic way of life," Begun was held in prison for three months.

ON JUNE 1, 1977 Begun was brought to trial. "Had the Hebrew language been treated like any other language," he told the court, "I would have been registered as a teacher of Hebrew, and I would not have been in court today." Speaking in his own defence, Begun told the court: "I worked for 20 years in a remunerative job. Why on earth should I have left my job at the point when I was upgraded from a technician to a scientific worker? Do

you assume that I have lost my reason? I will tell you why I lost my job. In April 1971 I submitted an application for emigration to Israel and soon afterwards I was deprived of my job."

Begun was sentenced to two years in exile in Siberia. On his release, on March 5, 1978, he returned to Moscow, the city in which he had lived for most of his life. But the housing authorities there refused to grant him permission to re-register in the capital. Scarcely ten weeks after his release from Siberia, he was again arrested. This time, he was accused

of violating residence regulations. At a second trial, held on June 28, 1978, Begun was sentenced to three years' exile. After serving his term, Begun was again refused permission to return to his home in Moscow. Instead, he was forced to live in Strunino, a small town more than 80 kilometres outside the capital. This ruling effectively prevented him from continuing the Hebrew lessons, which, beginning more than nine years before, and twice interrupted by labour camp and exile, he had given to an ever-widening circle.

On October 20, 1982, the authorities moved against Begun for the third time. They did so by striking at his friend, Ina Shlemova, whom he hoped to marry. That day KGB agents raided Ina's small Moscow apartment and seized several tape-recorder cassettes containing Hebrew-language lessons and Hebrew songs: the stock-in-trade of any Hebrew teacher's teaching efforts.

Yosef Begun, released from questioning, went with Ina Shlemova to Leningrad, to stay at a friend's apartment, to rest and regather their strength. The couple spent their last Friday evening in Leningrad with a fellow Hebrew teacher and other refugee friends: an evening in which joy and foreboding were intermingled.

ON NOVEMBER 6, 1982 Ina and Yosef left their friend's apartment

for the Moscow railway station, intending to travel by day train to Moscow. As they were boarding the train, KGB agents were waiting for them. Begun was held in custody, and questioned, for 22 hours without a break. Then he was taken to Vladimir prison, 160km. east of Moscow. There, he was held for more than 11 months.

On March 1, 1983, while Begun was being held at Vladimir, refugees in Moscow and Leningrad went on a one-day hunger strike on his behalf. I myself was, by chance, in Moscow that day, and heard many Jews speak of Begun's kindness, his love of learning, his abilities as a teacher, his charm and his courage. In Ina Shlemova's words two days later: "They thought they would punish Yosef without so many people being concerned. They didn't think so many people would care. They told him, 'Nobody will know about you.'"

On July 6, 1983, Ina Shlemova took the train to Vladimir. There she met the prison commandant, who told her that Begun would not be allowed to have his monthly parcel, due on July 14. Nor would he be permitted to buy food in the prison canteen with his monthly allowance. According to the commandant, Begun had "broken the regulations" while doing exercises during his daily walk. It appeared that during the walk, in the sweltering heat, Begun had taken off his shirt. It was this which was forbidden.

During this visit on July 6, Ina Shlemova was neither allowed to see Begun nor to send him a letter.

Ina Shlemova in Moscow, like Avital Shoharansky in Jerusalem, struggles against a regime which is unmoved by a wife's anguish, or by the loyalty of separation and adversity.

ty. "Well, it's our life," reflects Evgeni Lein, himself once a prisoner, and still today in refusal, "and we must struggle for freedom."

Evgeni Lein had been with Begun a few hours before Begun's arrest. He remembers how Begun had sensed that he would be arrested: "He spoke about it calmly and with self-respect."

ON OCTOBER 14, 1983, Yosef Begun, at the age of 51, was found guilty of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda," and received the maximum sentence, seven years in labour camp, to be followed by five years in exile: twelve years "deprivation of liberty."

Sent to a labour camp near Perm, Begun was immediately subjected to a series of punishments. On April 14, 1984 he was deprived of his right to buy food at the labour camp store. On May 9 he was put into solitary confinement. Five days later he was taken out of solitary and transferred to the labour camp's own prison, where he must remain until November. In this prison, no parcels are allowed. Says Ina Shlemova: "I have no idea why my Yosef is being persecuted in this way. Knowing him as well as I do, I am certain in my mind that the fault is not his, but that he is deliberately being victimized by the camp authorities."

On Begun's behalf, Ina Shlemova urges an end to his imprisonment. Her dream is an anniversary which could be celebrated, not by the prospect of yet another grim year of punishment, but by freedom: Begun's freedom to leave his labour camp and to be repatriated to Israel, the Jewish State in which he wishes so fervently to live, but from which, today, he is so cruelly cut off.

The writer is a fellow of Merton College, Oxford.

## Music, music, music

By ELI KAREV / Special to The Jerusalem Post

season no less than 150 times. "Even so, we are able to fulfill only a small part of artists' requests," says Ruth Rosovsky, in charge of music, as she handles a seemingly endless flow of calls on the two telephones in her tiny cubicle of an office.

The two halls, seating 520 and 180, and the exemplary professional conditions - apart from the clearly inadequate piano in the small hall - make the museum a good place for chamber music performances.

Alongside our leading artists who appear regularly, some renowned guests will also be heard.

Oscar Ghiglia, the Italian guitarist, is to appear with the Sinfonietta and double-bass virtuoso Gary Karr will be heard in a recital with Harmon Lewis at the piano, while French cellist Ina Joost is to play a solo recital. Also with the Sinfonietta, Felicity Palmer will sing the *Kindertotenlieder* by Mahler, under the baton of Mendi Rodan.

Contemporary music enthusiasts will be treated to an encounter with percussionist Jean-Pierre Drouot,

pianist Jean-Claude Benoit and composer Guy Reibel, all from France.

Guest vocal ensembles include the Scholars, an English group coming here for the third time, the U.S. Bemidji choir, the Marburg choir from Germany and the Dutch chamber choir.

The Bach and Handel tercentenaries will be celebrated, albeit not expressly. Special Bach projects include the *Art of the Fugue* presented by the Israel String Quartet; six cello suites by Uzi Wiesel, and a Joan Franks Williams programme juxtaposing music by Bach with Bach-influenced contemporary works. The Handel side will consist of the *Messiah* performed by the Chamber Singers, the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra and soloists Miriam Meltzer, Mira Zakai, Frieder Lang and Yaron Windmueller, as well as a Handel marathon, staged by the Sinfonietta. Avner Itai is to conduct both events.

AMONG THE ISRAELI soloists, a recital on October 27, by pianist

Yehli Wagnan, returning to the concert stage following a self-imposed silence of some 15 years, is certain to generate some excitement. The programme reveals no lack of artistic courage: the *Diabelli Variations* by Beethoven, one of the most demanding works ever written for the piano; excerpts from *Semantic Suite* by Bosovich; Ravel's *Noble and Sentimental Waltzes* and the *Mephisto Waltz* by Liszt. Another tunic opus by Beethoven, the *Hammerklavier* sonata, will be played by Natassia Tadson, who couples it with Liszt's *Transcendental Studies*.

Several Israeli compositions will be given local premiere performances. Tzvi Avni's *Beyond the Partition* for piano quartet has been chosen by Milka Laks, Yair Klees, Gad Levratov and Emanuel Gruber and Jan Radzyski's *Canto* by pianist Emanuel Krasovsky.

A new work by Yossi Bar-Haim has been entrusted to the Beersheba piano duo and Avni's *On the Verge of Time* to pianist Aric Vardi, while Yehak Sadei's *Anamorphoses* are being offered by the Sol La Re string

quartet. The Camerata trio, celebrating five years together, have chosen two works by Shlomo Gronich, the *Double Fantasy* and the *Ragtime for Trio*.

Attention cello buffs: the first violin sonata by Schumann will be resurrected on the cello by Zvi Harel; the somewhat better-known cello version of Brahms' first violin sonata is scheduled for performance by Emanuel Gruber (along with the two bona fide cello sonatas by the composer).

The marvellous, trio for some reason rarely heard, yet by Smetana graces the programme of the Yuval Piano Trio; their opposite number, the Israel Piano Trio, will offer the *Kammersonate* by the contemporary German composer, Hans Werner Henze.

On a lighter note, singer Adi Etzion and pianist Jonathan Zak are presenting *Barocobaret*, a medley of works by Pergolesi, Vivaldi, Gershwin and Kurt Weill. Not to be outdone, the Sinfonietta will stage a Weill evening - the *Berlin Requiem*, *Pantomime*, and *Seven Sins*.

Another chamber music marathon is also in the works, as are three *Musical Evenings*. Directed by Michael Haran, they feature chamber music masterpieces performed by some of our leading players.

WHETHER YOU like it or not, the traditional concert format implies a degree of stiffness. But, fortunately, those enthusiasts who prefer listening to their music in a more genial atmosphere, during a friendly chat or over a glass of wine or a meal, need not feel dejected. They have not been forgotten.

It is worth noting that the push for a more relaxed performing framework - a relatively recent development here - came from the very core of our professional music establishment.

In 1969, Noam Sheriff, composer, conductor, educator and golden boy of the local musical scene, inaugurated the *H.I.I.* series at the Tel Aviv Tzavta, barely two city blocks from the Mann Auditorium.

His concept, while simple enough, was revolutionary at the time - music-making free of rigid concert-hall trappings, of bow-ties and evening dress. The time itself, 11:11 a.m. on Saturday morning, before the family lunch, invited a relaxed attitude. Sheriff introduced the music to be performed and questions and dis-

cussion from the floor were encouraged. Lengthy intermissions allowed ample time to meet friends in the lobby and savour good coffee and cake.

"A very special audience came to our events, one that did not as a rule frequent regular concerts," recalls Hanoah Hasson, Sheriff's assistant in those days.

Uri Toeplitz, principal flautist with the Philharmonic for 34 years and an eminent musicologist, went a step further when he joined several colleagues to become the moving force behind the Yuval.

Located in nearby Ramat Hasharon and billed as both cafe and musical venue, four nights weekly, the patrons/music-lovers sit at tables, enjoying food, drinks and conversation. During the musical performances, however, the lights are dimmed and the attentive silence would give credit to many a concert hall. When they are not performing, artists mingle with guests, and eat and drink for free (they collect no fee for performing).

Yuval's oldtimers still enjoy the taste of the homemade pastries and soups prepared by the mother of Avi Avidov, the first manager. Avidov and the board of musicians had to deal with some unusual questions, such as whether an entrance fee should be charged (there is a small one); what kind of food should be served and how long the intermissions should be.

The idea caught on. Once in a while, even world-famous musicians would drop by to spend a free evening; the performances by Jean-Pierre Rampal and Yo Yo Ma are well remembered.

Some of the programmes remain unique to the Yuval - unconventional chamber groups testing public reaction; sight-reading jam sessions; artists trying out new pieces in advance of concert tours. And where else can an able student, possibly a future leading performer, gain such invaluable experience in playing before a public?

With recent acquisition of a professional harpsichord and a better piano, the Yuval is ready to expand its activities. The two courses on the performance of old music it sponsored proved a big success. So did the Independence Day celebration last spring - 28 hours of non-stop music.

"The place was crowded throughout and at some points people had to be turned away," reports Hed Sella, the energetic music director. "Even during the dead summer months, there are no empty tables. Which is one way of saying that the Yuval is needed," adds Avi Kluger, the administrative director, as he acknowledges the involvement of the Ramat Hasharon local council and its financial assistance.

## New light on old culture

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER / Jerusalem Post Reporter

EDGERTON HAS actually developed two special sonar devices, a side-scanner with a parabolic beam that photographs as far as the sea bottom and the below bottom sonar. With the side-scanner he helped locate Henry VIII's ship, the Mary Rose in Portsmouth harbour, where her remains were recently lifted, and during a previous visit to Israel in 1979, an Israeli Air Force helicopter which was lost at sea off Gaza.

He considers his trip - his sixth to this country - as another stage in the development of his sonar device, which he said could easily be

reduced to TV size, "but the market's not big enough now to make it worthwhile for manufacturers." Its biggest enemy is sand as the beam will not penetrate it.

During his stay the group mapped the harbour installations and wrecked ships buried under the sea bottom in Caesarea and a recently discovered pre-historic village off the beach of Atlit.

The village, buried 10 metres under the sea bottom, half a mile off shore, has been dated to 6,000 BCE and has yielded evidence of human habitation. It has also shown geographers how far the shore has receded during the past few thousand years.

Edgerton says that in its present state his sonar device, which easily loads onto a dinghy, can do shallow undersea-bottom research, "a compromise between resolution and depth." The images of what it finds are fairly clear, and while they don't show up exact details, they give the explorers a good indication as to

where their complicated underwater digging may pay off.

In 1971, using an earlier version, he and Dr. Elisha Linder of Haifa University went in search of the fleet of the biblical Yehoshafat which ran aground at Etzion Gabeir, according to the Bible. They decided that the straits at Coral Island off the Sinai coast was the most likely location "but though we found some indications, the wrecks, if they're there, are buried too deep in the mud for a clear picture."

In the U.S. Edgerton still works regularly in his laboratory at M.I.T. developing his instruments and writing books, with the extraordinary high speed photographs his inventions have made possible.

He is known not only for his invention but also for his teaching. He was accompanied on his visit by the TV team which made the successful *From Mao to Mozart* film and who are now preparing a film on Edgerton.

Before their visit to Israel they were in Sardinia where the Antiquities Department asked Linder to conduct underwater explorations for Phoenician settlements and ships.

Unfortunately they found that the lush sea weeds blocked the sonar beam. Edgerton will probably find a way through the weeds and the sand, sooner or later, to enrich modern man's knowledge of ancient history, now hidden under layers of sand and sediment the sea has accumulated over thousands of years.

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